

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

3611

Applicant: FURUMI et al. Examiner: unknown  
Serial No.: 10/608524 Group Art Unit: 3611  
Filed: June 24, 2003 Docket: 8373.309US01  
Title: STEERING SYSTEM FOR VEHICLE

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: , Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 22, 2004.

By: *Nicole Landree*

Name: NICOLE LANDREE

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, 3 Reference(s), Copy of European Search Report
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

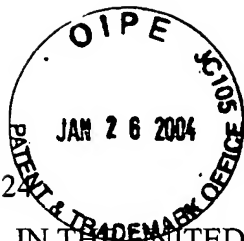
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612.332.5300

By: *Curtis B. Hamre*

Name: Curtis B. Hamre

Reg. No.: 29,165

CBH:nel



S/N 10/608524

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Applicant:  | FURUMI et al.               | Examiner:       | unknown      |
| Serial No.: | 10/608524                   | Group Art Unit: | 3611         |
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By: 

Name: NICOLE LANDREE

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. At least some of the references were recently cited in an European Search Report mailed December 23, 2003.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided. Enclosed for the Examiner's information is a copy of the European Search Report.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
(612)332.5300

Dated: January 22, 2004

By: Curtis B. Hamre

Curtis B. Hamre  
Reg. No. 29,165

CBH/nel



|   |                                |                                  |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| FORM 1-449*<br>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT<br><br>IN AN APPLICATION<br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) | Docket Number:<br>8373.309US01 | Application Number:<br>10/608524 |
|   | Applicant: FURUMI et al.       |                                  |
|   | Filing Date: June 24, 2003     | Group Art Unit: 3611             |

[illegible]

**23552**  
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| EXAMINER  | DATE CONSIDERED |
| EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant. |                 |